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1936/37

Sioux City, Ia.
Public library

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Report

City Library Performs Valuable Service for Residents, Annual Report of Librarian Reveals; Mrs. Hudson Is Chosen President of the Board

Year's Lending Averages 8.9 Books Per Person

MRS. L. C. HUDSON was elected president of the board of trustees of the Sioux City public library at a luncheon meeting of the board Saturday in the West hotel. The retiring president is Dr. F. H. Roost.

Frank Scott was re-elected vice president and Miss Mildred H. Pike was reappointed city librarian and secretary of the board. Other members of the board are: Rabbi Theodore N. Lewis, Mrs. S. F. Hoffman and Dr. Roost.

The value of Sioux City's library system to its citizens was strikingly presented by means of charts and statistics by Miss Mildred Pike, librarian, in her annual report to the library board.

During the past year, Miss Pike reported, 708,824 volumes were borrowed by library patrons. If no library system had been available here and the users had bought those books they would have been compelled to spend a total of \$1,566,613.12.

Each borrower used an average of 23.6 library books during the year and the total number of volumes lent was sufficient to make an average of 8.9 for every resident of the city.

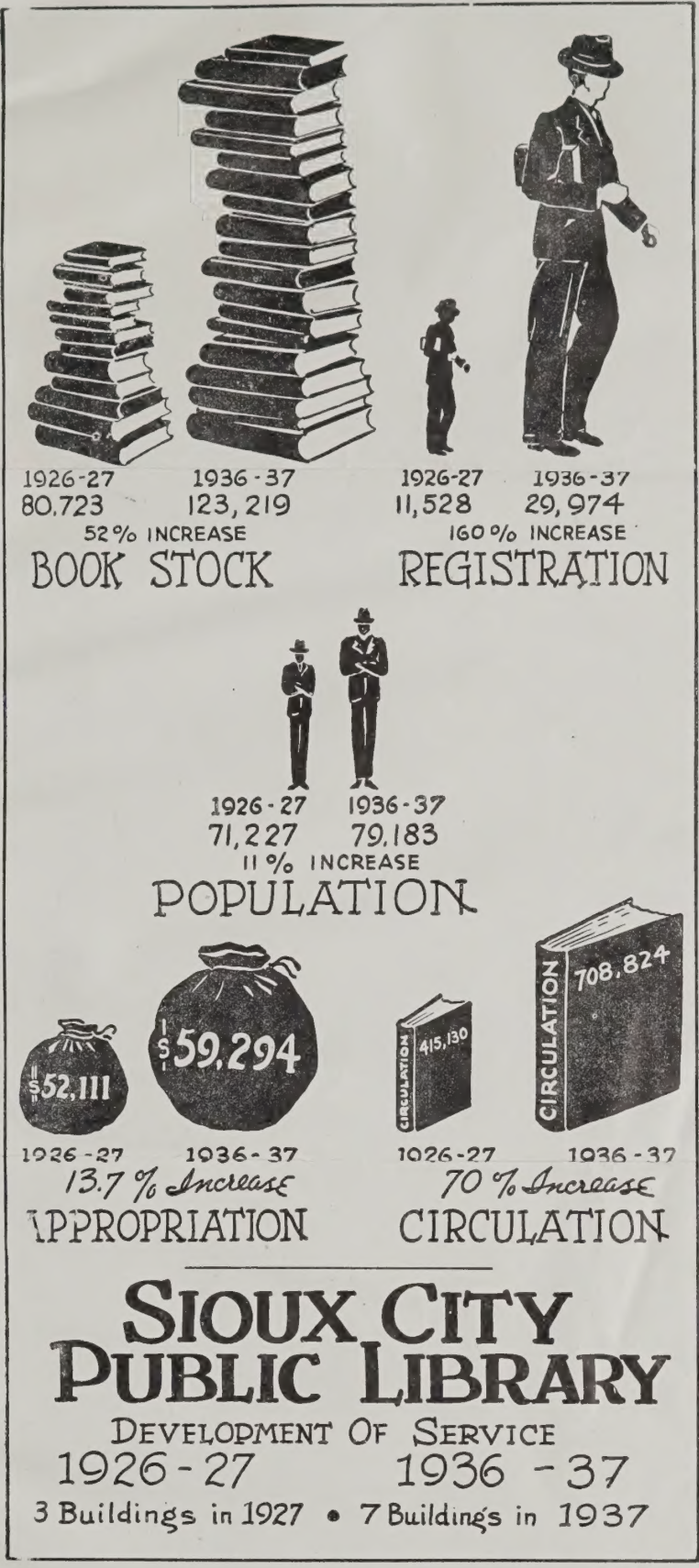
Thirty-six per cent of the people in the city are registered library card holders, Miss Pike revealed. Included in that number are 9,465 children, representing 73 per cent of the city's school population. Individual visits to the main library during the year totaled 250,000.

New Stocks Needed

Emphasis was placed in the report on the need for new book stacks at the main library. Arrangements were made during the year to allow more space for stacks which were installed. However, even with that accomplished, there is "great need for more floor space."

Concerning the use of nonfiction, the report states: "It seems that the public is more eager today than formerly to read books dealing with serious matters. There have been many requests for reading material on government, civic and world affairs, as well as books on business and economics."

Forty-two per cent of the total circulation in the adult department at the main library was of nonfiction material. Magazine withdrawals were the most numerous. Circulation of pamphlets jumped from 10th place the pre-



"People are asking for information and material on such social questions as the supreme court, social security, civil service and old age pensions; such political and economic problems as the new deal, elections past and present, government control and co-operatives; current events such as the Spanish situation, English politics and affairs, and for such practical questions as television, engineering, gardening and meat inspection."

Since October 12, 1936, a record was made by W. P. A. workers of the number of persons who entered the main building, both juveniles and adults. According to that record in four and one-half months, the equivalent of the population of Sioux City entered the main library. In five and one-half months (from October 12 until March 31) 113,697 persons entered. The average daily attendance was 756 and the largest number for any one day was 1,356 on Saturday, November 21. Although the building is closed three hours less on Saturday than on the first four days of the week, the largest attendance is on that day, while the next largest is on Monday.

Busy Departments

The catalogue department was busy with the cataloguing of 7,827 books during the year, an increase of 466 over last year's additions. A total of 4,348 were added to the branch libraries' collections and 3,479 were added to the main library. Books repaired totaled 10,730 with 19 W. P. A. workers assisting.

The branch department showed progress and special work done in spite of need of books and longer hours of opening. The total circulation was 390,895 or 55.1 per cent of the total circulation of the library system.

Branch libraries were active in their communities. A few of their outstanding activities included story hours, seasonal book displays made during the year, book lists distributed and school class visits for instruction in use of the library.

"Outstanding service is given by the hospital department," read the caption heading the report on that division. The report stated that requests had come from throughout the world for information on that branch. Regular information during the year was sent to Tulane university school of medicine, University of Illinois, University of Toledo and the University of Missouri.

Three deposit stations, at the Emerson, Grant and Crescent Park schools, were maintained under the supervision of the department.

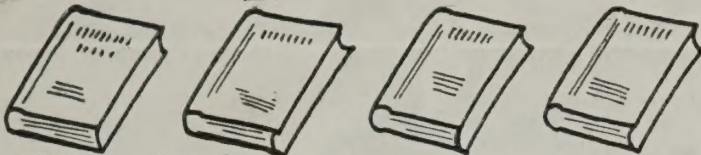
ceding year to second place last year. "Social, economic and political affairs of the day are the most popular type of requests coming to the library," said Miss Pike.



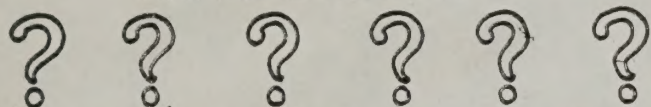
A BUSY YEAR at the SIOUX CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY



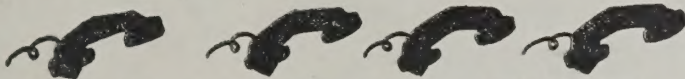
Approximately 250,000 Sioux Cityans passed through the doors of the main Public Library at 6th and Jackson



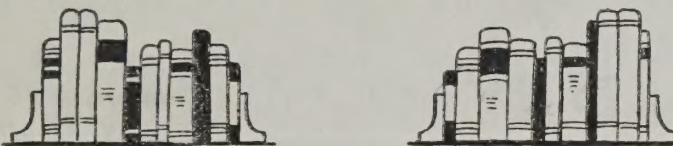
708,824 BOOKS WERE LENT TO THEM
FOR HOME READING



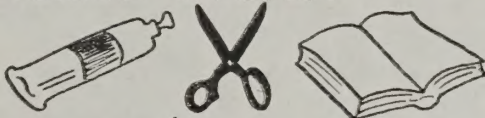
Innumerable questions were answered on all subjects.



THOUSANDS OF BOOKS WERE RENEWED
AND QUESTIONS ANSWERED BY TELEPHONE



7,827 NEW BOOKS WERE ADDED TO
THE LIBRARY SYSTEM



*13,720 Books were rebound, mended,
cleaned and shellacked.*



2,230 BOOKS WERE LENT TO
OUT OF TOWN PATRONS.

Mrs. L. C. Hudson was elected president of the public library board of trustees at the annual meeting Saturday. Frank E. Scott was re-elected vice president and Miss Mildred Pike was reappointed city librarian and secretary of the board. Dr. F. H. Roost was president of the board last year and remains on the board.

Other members of the board are Mrs. C. F. Hoffman and Rabbi Theodore N. Lewis.

The increase in the library's use as an educational as well as a recreational institution is reflected in the report made to the library board by Miss Mildred H. Pike, librarian.

In spite of short hours and limited space, the library and its branches lent 708,824 books during the year, an average of nine volumes per capita. If these books had been purchased by the readers, they would have cost \$1,566,613.12, records show.

Interest Is Wide

Social, economic and political affairs, as well as international con-

ditions, television and engineering, are matters in which Sioux Cityans displayed increasing interest during the year. Forty-two per cent of the circulation in the adult department at the main library was non-fiction, Miss Pike's report revealed.

"It seems the public is more eager today than formerly to read books dealing with serious matters," Miss Pike commented.

In order to ascertain the number of persons who visit the main library daily, WPA workers made a record for five and one-half months, starting October 12, 1936. The equivalent of the population of Sioux City visited the library in four and one half months and 113,697 in five and one-half months, it showed.

Average Is 756

The average daily attendance of that period was 756 and the largest for any day was 1,356 Saturday, November 21.

The principal accomplishment in the way of equipment, Miss Pike continued, was addition of a new tier of book stacks at the main li-

brary. Three tiers of stacks were installed when the building was erected in 1912. More shelving has been needed for some time, Miss Pike said, and many temporary shelves have been added.

Miss Pike emphasized the need of an addition at the main library. The new book stacks provide shelf room for some time but there still is a great need for more floor space, she declared.

Referring to departments, Miss Pike praised the work of the hospital service, the children's division, the six branch libraries and the catalog department.

Reputation Is Wide

The hospital department, Miss Pike reported, is known nationally and internationally. Many requests come from all over the world for information on it. Two hundred forty story hours were conducted in the children's department. Sev-

SIOUX CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Book Stock	Circulation
1920-1—60,300	1920-1—288,647
1928-9—89,693	1928-9—631,472
1930-1—99,935	1930-1—665,612
1932-3—110,265	1932-3—834,330
1934-5—119,605	1934-5—784,006
1936-7—123,219	1936-7—708,824
Appropriation	
1920-1—\$44,909	1932-3—61,622
1928-9—\$58,582	1934-5—45,294
1930-1—\$68,486	1936-7—59,294

HIGHLIGHTS OF REPORT

Volumes in library,
March 31, 1937123,219
(Added during fiscal year, 7,827)
Books issued for
home use708,824
Adults—411,172
Children's—297,652
Registered card holders .. 29,974
(36.8 per cent of population)
Books issued per capita .. 8.9
Books issued per borrower 23.6
Pictures lent 12,172
Periodicals subscribed for
in the system 470
Library patrons at main
building totaled250,000
Juvenile library patrons in
library system 9,465
(73 per cent of school popu-
lation registered.)

enty-three per cent of the school population has library cards at the main library. These 9,465 young Sioux Cityans read 297,652 books during the year and 28 per cent of the books were non-fiction.

The branch department shows progress and special work done in spite of need of books and longer hours of opening, Miss Pike pointed out. The total circulation for the six branches was 390,895 or 55.1 per cent of the total circulation of the system.

The catalog department cataloged 7,827 books in the year, an increase of 466 over last year, an increase of 466 over last year. Nineteen WPA workers assisted in repairing; 2,990 books were sent to the bindery to be rebound.

Spirit Stressed

"It has been said that 'the spirit of the modern library is a spirit of large and far-reaching service,'" Miss Pike said in closing her report, "a spirit of sincerity in attempting to meet some of the needs of men and women and to instill into the hearts of boys and girls at the earliest possible age, such a love for books that they may be led into the habit of good reading. This is the spirit of the staff of the Sioux City public library in their attempt to give library service to Sioux Cityans.

The librarian expressed her appreciation of the co-operation of the staff and of the interest, time and encouragement given to library affairs by members of the library board. She also thanked the mayor and city council for the increase in the library budget for the year and The Tribune for co-operation in giving space to library news.



